

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

Crop Weather Agriculture Census

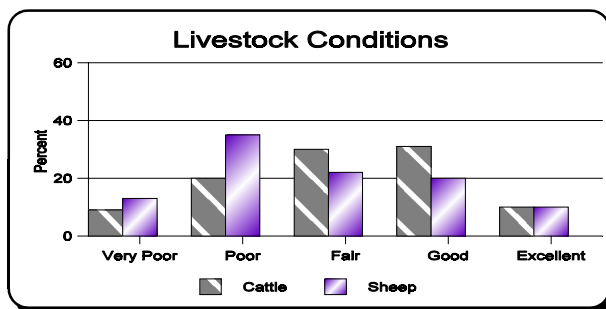
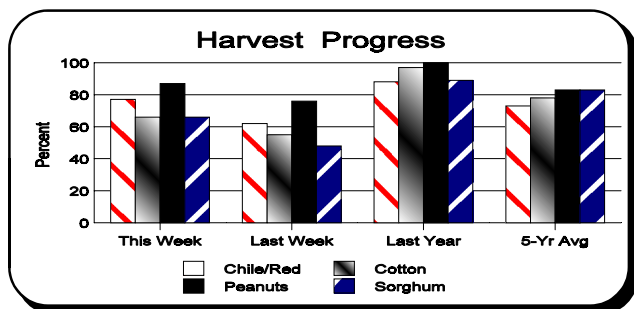
Available on Internet at: www.nass.usda.gov/nm OR by e-mail (call 1-800-530-8810 for information)

CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 24, 2002

NEW MEXICO: There were 6.4 days suitable for field work. Freeze damage was 15% light, 21% moderate, and 5% severe. The dry weather allowed farmers to spend most of the week harvesting their crops. Peanuts are now 87% harvested, red chile is 77% picked, and cotton is 66% picked. The final cutting of alfalfa is practically complete at 98%. The sorghum crop is still behind previous years, with 78% of the irrigated crop harvested and only 59% of the dryland crop harvested. The pecan harvest is underway with 12% complete and the crop listed as fair to excellent. Winter wheat continues to do well with most of the crop in fair to good condition. Fall onions are also in good shape with the crop listed as fair to excellent. Ranchers were busy shipping remaining young stock and moving animals to wheat and alfalfa fields. Cattle are reported as 9% very poor, 20% poor, 30% fair, 31% good, and 10% excellent. Sheep are listed as 13% very poor, 35% poor, 22% fair, 20% good, 10% excellent. Range and pasture conditions are 29% very poor, 38% poor, 28% fair, 4% good, and 1% excellent.

CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
CHILE	Harvested-Red	77	62	88	73
COTTON	Harvested	66	55	97	78
PEANUTS	Harvested	87	76	100	83
PECANS	Harvested	12	—	15	11
SORGHUM (All)	Harvested	66	48	89	83



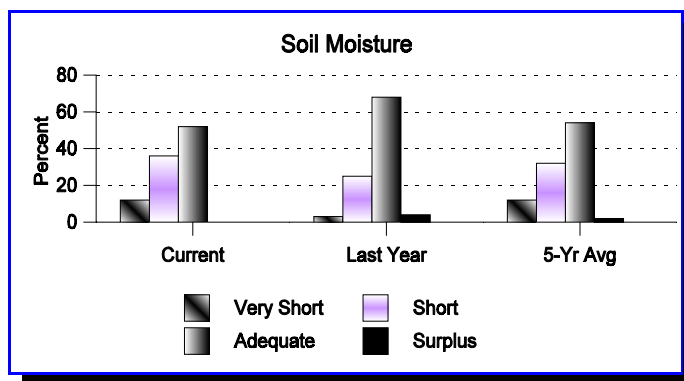
CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	27	12	24	24	13
Onions	—	—	23	45	32
Pecans	—	—	39	27	34
Wheat (All)	—	1	16	77	6
Cattle	9	20	30	31	10
Sheep	13	35	22	20	10

THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE IS COMING

SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	20	24	56	--
Northeast	4	38	58	--
Southwest	18	80	2	--
Southeast	11	37	52	--
State	12	36	52	--
State-Last Year	3	25	68	4
State-5-Yr Avg.	12	32	54	2



WEATHER SUMMARY

It was a dry week in New Mexico with temperatures generally a bit above normal. The statewide average was 4 degrees above normal. By the end of the week, however, very cold air had entered the northeast part of the state. This cold air is expected to spread across the state in the coming week. No data available from Socorro.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS NOVEMBER 18-24, 2002

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	11/18 11/24	11/01 11/24	Normal Nov	01/01 11/24	Normal Jan-Nov
Carlsbad	53.4	74.0	32.0	0.00	0.31	0.59	11.88	12.38
Hobbs	49.6	73.0	29.0	0.00	0.37	0.55	14.92	15.57
Roswell	51.0	73.0	26.0	T	0.06	0.55	13.01	12.38
Clayton	44.3	69.0	23.0	T	0.59	0.52	8.87	14.80
Clovis	50.4	68.0	30.0	0.00	0.59	0.73	12.90	16.97
Roy	43.8	62.0	27.0	0.00	0.00	0.50	15.93	15.29
Tucumcari	46.6	69.0	28.0	0.00	1.25	0.51	14.58	13.90
Chama	35.7	62.0	11.0	0.00	1.71	1.72	11.53	19.81
Johnson Ranch	37.1	64.0	15.0	0.00	0.76	0.69	7.87	10.85
Capulin	38.3	70.0	21.0	0.00	0.32	0.67	11.55	16.94
Las Vegas	42.1	69.0	21.0	0.00	0.13	0.67	9.90	16.49
Los Alamos	41.4	55.0	25.0	0.00	1.36	1.02	10.83	17.64
Raton	40.1	65.0	20.0	T	0.38	0.61	10.42	16.22
Santa Fe	40.9	62.0	19.0	0.00	0.57	0.63	9.06	13.21
Red River	33.9	56.0	11.0	0.00	1.31	1.18	18.25	19.33
Farmington	39.1	59.0	20.0	0.00	0.68	0.94	6.15	8.12
Gallup	36.9	66.0	12.0	0.00	0.43	0.95	9.97	11.91
Grants	38.9	64.0	13.0	0.00	0.73	0.58	8.85	10.14
Silver City	47.0	66.0	24.0	0.00	0.18	0.70	7.84	14.72
Quemado	39.6	67.0	14.0	0.00	0.82	0.45	12.85	13.04
Albuquerque	46.6	62.0	30.0	0.00	0.49	0.43	5.90	8.38
Carrizozo	42.1	66.0	16.0	0.00	0.00	0.76	10.45	12.07
Gran Quivera	44.9	64.0	24.0	0.00	0.41	0.91	10.62	14.92
Moriarty	41.6	67.0	13.0	0.00	0.30	0.40	6.19	12.17
Ruidoso	42.5	65.0	18.0	0.00	0.55	0.88	15.26	19.72
Socorro	NA	NA	NA	0.00	0.01	0.47	8.74	8.95
Alamogordo	51.1	73.0	28.0	0.00	0.00	0.71	8.10	11.92
Animas	48.7	76.0	18.0	0.00	0.00	0.71	5.78	10.62
Deming	48.1	71.0	24.0	0.00	0.00	0.64	7.86	9.73
T or C	48.8	69.0	27.0	0.00	0.25	0.60	6.42	9.22
Las Cruces	48.9	71.0	24.0	0.00	0.00	0.53	5.95	8.72

(T) Trace (-) No Report (*) Correction

All reports based on preliminary data. Precipitation data corrected monthly from official observation forms.

NASS Begins Agriculture Census in December 2002

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will begin the Nation's largest information-gathering project for agriculture – the 2002 Census of Agriculture – this December. The census of agriculture is currently conducted once every 5 years. The first was conducted in 1840 as part of the population census. The 2002 Census marks the 26th census of agriculture. Report forms will be mailed to all U.S. farm and ranch operators in December 2002 to collect data for the 2002 calendar year. Completed report forms from each farmer and rancher are due February 3, 2003.

Information on individual operations is strictly **confidential** by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes county, State and U.S. data only, ensuring that no individual operation or grower will be identified. Complete, accurate, and timely reporting by operators will provide a true portrait of American agriculture for every county, State, and the Nation. Data this complete and comprehensive at the national, State, and county levels are available nowhere else. Title 7 (U.S. Code) states that response to the 2002 Census of Agriculture is required by law. However, we prefer to show examples of benefits to earn the willing cooperation of our Nation's food and fiber producers.

How do census data benefit producers? Many people who serve farmers and ranchers depend on agriculture census data to make good, solid decisions based on fact, not opinion. For example:

Farm organizations use the data to evaluate and propose policies and programs that help farmers and ranchers.

Ag businesses use census data to develop marketing strategies and determine locations of facilities that will serve producers.

Farmers and ranchers use the data to spot trends, determine potential opportunities for their operations, and compare their business to local, State, and national averages.

Extension agents and universities use census statistics to develop new and improved methods to increase agricultural production and profitability.

Rural electric companies use the data to forecast future energy and resource needs for producers and their communities.

State departments of agriculture use census data to plan for and be responsive to drought and emergency outbreaks of diseases or infestation of pests.

Elected State and county representatives use the data to develop farm programs to protect and promote U.S. agriculture.

Public and private analysts make extensive use of census data to develop projections and evaluate results of programs and events.

New on the 2002 Census of Agriculture will be information on: operator characteristics on multiple (up to 3) operators per farm; production contracts/landlord shares; computer and Internet use; more detailed farm-related income; and new commodities (bison, elk, llamas, deer, emus, and ostriches). Other key data items collected include: land use and ownership; acres irrigated; crop acreage and quantities harvested; livestock and poultry inventories; value of products sold; participation in Federal farm programs; market value of land and buildings; number of hired farm workers; and the structure of U.S. farming and ranching operations. Agricultural product sales by various categories, such as size or type of farm, at the county level provides a detailed snapshot of local-level farm economics.

Information in the 2002 Census of Agriculture report comes from the best possible source – the producer. Their swift response by mail will save money by avoiding costly additional contacts. If someone who produces, or could produce, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products does not receive a 2002 Census of Agriculture report form by January 2003, they should call 1-888-4AG-STAT to ensure they are counted in the census.

All reports will be available free through the NASS Web site at www.usda.gov/nass/.

To order a printed copy of any NASS report, call the NASS Order Desk at 1-800-999-6779.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEW MEXICO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
PO BOX 1809
LAS CRUCES, NM 88004-1809

WEEKLY AG-UPDATE (USPS 418330) published weekly
by USDA NASS, 2507 Telshor Blvd, Las Cruces, NM 88011.
Periodical postage paid at Las Cruces, NM 88001 and
additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to AG-UPDATE PO Box 1809, Las Cruces, NM 88004-1809

May you have a bountiful harvest!

